

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (new): An apparatus comprising:

a housing substantially having a shape of an oblong box, the housing having a grounding portion;

a circuit board mounted to the housing;

a transmitting optical subassembly electrically associated with the circuit board;

a receiving optical subassembly electrically associated with the circuit board;

an electrical connector electrical associated with the circuit board, the electrical connector having a plurality of electrical contacts, a first electrical contact of the plurality of electrical contacts being a ground contact, and a second electrical contact of the plurality of electrical contacts being a non-ground electrical contact, and wherein the ground contact is offset from the non-ground electrical contact;

a first optical receptacle mechanically associated with the housing, the first optical receptacle adapted so as to receive a first fiber optic connector plug, the first optical receptacle being aligned with the transmitting optical subassembly;

a second optical receptacle mechanically associated with the housing, the second optical receptacle adapted so as to receive a second fiber optic connector plug, the second optical receptacle being aligned with the receiving optical subassembly, and wherein the second optical receptacle is positioned adjacent and parallel to the first optical receptacle;

at least one of a release member and a latch member mounted to the housing; and

a receptacle housing having a receptacle housing electrical connector, and a ground tab, the receptacle housing mounted to a mother board of a host device, and wherein,

upon insertion of the housing into the receptacle housing, the grounding portion of the housing makes an electrical connection with the ground tab of the receptacle housing, and

upon further insertion of the housing into the receptacle housing, the ground contact of the electrical connector makes an electrical connection with a complimentary ground contact of the receptacle housing electrical connector, and

upon still further insertion of the housing into the receptacle housing, the non-ground contact of the electrical connector makes an electrical connection with a complimentary non-ground contact of the receptacle housing electrical connector, and

upon yet still further insertion of the housing into the receptacle housing, the at least one of the release member and the latch member becomes mechanically associated with a complimentary feature of the receptacle housing so as to lock the housing to the receptacle housing, and wherein,

upon preparation of removing the housing from the receptacle housing, a force is applied to the at least one of the release lever and the latch member so as to unlock the mechanical association between the at least one of the release lever and the latch member and the complimentary feature of the receptacle housing, and

upon removal of the housing from the receptacle housing, the non-ground electrical contact of the electrical connector breaks the electrical connection with the complimentary non-ground electrical contact of the receptacle housing electrical connector, and

upon further removal of the housing from the receptacle housing, the ground contact of the electrical connector breaks the electrical connection with the complimentary ground contact of the receptacle housing electrical connector, and

upon still further removal of the housing from the receptacle housing, the grounding portion of the housing breaks the electrical connection with the ground tab of the receptacle housing.

Claim 31 (new): An apparatus according to claim 30 wherein the transmitting optical subassembly is a laser diode.

Claim 32 (new): An apparatus according to claim 31 wherein the receiving optical subassembly is a photo diode.

Claim 33 (new): An apparatus according to claim 32 wherein the grounding portion of the housing is a metallized coating on a surface of the housing.